

June 23, 2020 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on June 23, 2020 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Other Council Members present included Jim Woods, Danny Turner, Jennifer Bowles and Chad Martin. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager/City Attorney Eric Monday, Finance Director Linda Conover, Assistant Finance Director Mandy McGhee, Community Development Director Mark McCaskill and Deputy Police Chief Rob Fincher.

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 5:45 PM. In accordance with section 2.1-344 (A) Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Council Member Woods and seconded by Council Member Turner with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; Council Member Woods, aye; and Mayor Lawson, aye. Council Member Bowles arrives for closed session at 6:45pm. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: (A) Appointments to boards and commissions, as authorized by Subsection 1, (B) Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, as authorized by Subsection 29, and (C) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, attorneys or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, as authorized by Subsection 7. At the conclusion of Closed Session, each returning member of Council certified that (1) only public business matters exempt from open meeting requirements were discussed in said Closed Session; and (2) only those business matters identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered during the A motion was made by Council Member Bowles; seconded by Council Member Woods, with the following 5-0 recorded vote in favor to return to Open Session: Mayor Lawson, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; and Council Member Woods.

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order.

Out of Closed Session, Vice Mayor Martin made a motion to appoint Jacovia Hairston to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term ending June 30, 2024. Council Member Woods seconded the motion with all Council voting in favor.

Council Member Bowles made a motion to reappoint Donna Dillard to the School Board for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2023. Council Member Turner seconded the motion with all Council voting in favor.

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Council Member Woods made a motion to appoint Tony Jones to the School Board for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2023. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all Council voting in favor.

Council Member Bowles made a motion to appoint Wayne Draper to the Board of Appeals for a 5-year term ending June 23, 2025. Council Member Turner seconded the motion with all Council voting in favor. There was no additional action taken in Closed Session.

Following the Pledge to the American Flag and invocation by Vice Mayor Martin, Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lawson explained that the meeting would follow COVID guidelines, allowing Council Members plus ten others in attendance and recognizing social distancing recommendations.

Approve minutes for the May 26, 2020 Council Meeting, May 27, 2020 Work Session, June 2, 2020 Work Session and the June 4, 2020 Work Session – Council Member Bowles requested a change to the June 4 minutes. Council Member Woods made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Council Member Turner seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Hear an update on Martinsville Mustangs Baseball – City Manager Towarnicki shared that the Martinsville Mustangs would begin their season soon under COVID restrictions. Greg Suire, Managing Partner of the Mustangs was in attendance to share details on the opening and the steps taken to protect the fans and to make the field look even better than before. Martinsville will be the first City in the state to host a college or minor league baseball game with 28 home games on the schedule this season. Every player has to test negative for COVID. Every morning their temperature is taken when arriving at the park for practice. The old clubhouse has been remodeled to separate players, only allowing a minimum amount of players in at a given time to allow social distancing. There will be two entrances and two exits to allow social distancing for fans attending. Martinsville tripled host families in the past year. The season will be longer lasting until August 16.

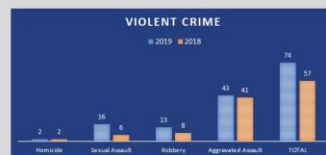
Hear a presentation from the Police Department regarding their 2019 Annual Report – Police Chief Eddie Cassady and Lieutenant Sandy Hines presented the Annual Report. Investigative Secretary and Crime Analyst Hannah Boyd was also in attendance. Cassady said he could not thank the men and women who work for him enough and he is thankful for the relationship his department has with the City residents.



Martinsville **POLICE DEPARTMENT** **2019** **Annual Report**



YEAR IN REVIEW



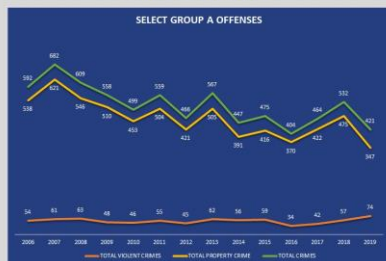
TOTAL CRIME 2019 421

TOTAL CRIME 2018 532

20% DECREASE IN CRIME

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CRIME TRENDS



DEFINITION OF SELECT GROUP A OFFENSES:

VIOLENT CRIMES: Homicide, Sexual Assaults, Robbery and Aggravated Assaults

CRIME AGAINST PROPERTY: Burglary, Larceny (including Shoplifting), Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson

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COMMUNITY POLICING IN ACTION

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TOTAL HOMICIDE	0	2	1	0	2	2	2
TOTAL SEXUAL ASSAULT	8	13	12	6	5	6	16
ROBBERY	20	12	8	2	4	8	13
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	34	29	38	26	31	41	43
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	62	56	59	34	42	57	74
BURGLARY	65	58	54	51	70	72	49
LARCENY	411	313	344	292	327	370	263
MV THEFT	27	18	14	23	25	33	35
ARSON	2	2	4	4	0	0	0
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME	505	391	416	370	422	475	347

TOTAL CRIMES 567 447 475 404 464 532 421

Community Policing is vital to our department. The presence of our officers can help defer crime and let citizens know we are here to help.

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COMMUNITY POLICING

Community Resource Unit

The Martinsville Police Department is a Community Oriented Police Department. Every employee, sworn or civilian strives to deliver the highest level of customer service to our citizens. This unit consists of 1 Sergeant, 2 Officers, 2 School Resource Officers and 1 Animal Control Officer. This unit not only leads several community programs, but they also assist Martinsville City Sheriff's Office, Henry County Sheriff's Office and other neighboring agencies with several events throughout the year.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

- National Night Out
- Special Olympics
- Neighborhood Watch
- Children Safety Programs
- Crime Prevention
- Security Assessment Program
- Relay for Life
- Coffee/Lunch with a Cop
- Santa, Cops and Kids
- Christmas Cheer
- Smith River Fest
- 5k Races
- Torch Run
- S.A.L.T.
- Tours
- Youth Programs



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COMMUNITY POLICING

Bike Patrol

Bike Patrol is another responsibility of our Community Resource Unit. They are certified through the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) and spend many days completing bike patrols throughout the city. All officers of the MPD are trained to use bicycles and can use them for special events and NRO activities in neighborhoods. This program has allowed us to make arrests for shoplifting, purse snatching, alcohol violations and sexual assault. We have also participated in several bicycling programs at local community events.



Animal Control



Our animal control officer, E.C. Stone retired in 2019 which allowed us to bring in Ofc. Russell Eldridge who gladly took over the position. During 2019, Animal Control took in 125 animals including 88 dogs and 37 cats. They were able to get 81 of those adopted.

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OPERATIONS DIVISION

UNIFORM PATROL

The Uniform Patrol Division provides the community with around the clock professional police service and crime prevention. While all departments are essential, patrol is the backbone of our department. Our patrol officers also serve as neighborhood resource officers which provides personal service to 22 areas in the city of Martinsville.



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OPERATIONS DIVISION

Neighborhood Resource Officer Program

This program breaks our city into twenty-two individual neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has an assigned patrol officer which gives them the chance to meet our residents on a more personal level. The officers conduct door to door meetings to check on residents and hear their concerns. The MPD is seeking a grant for 2019-2020 to continue to pay officers overtime to perform NRO activities.



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TRAFFIC



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CALLS FOR SERVICE



CITIZEN'S TOP 10 CALLS FOR SERVICE 2019

1. Call by Phone 2072
2. Misc. Law Enforcement 735
3. Disturbance 672
4. Dog Case 658
5. 911 Open Line Hang Up 651
6. Suspicious Circumstances 645
7. Extra Patrol-Vacation Checks 555
8. Assist Motorists 433
9. Alarm-Business 420
10. Suspicious Person 388

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INVESTIGATIONS

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Investigators assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division work diligently with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to provide high quality criminal cases for prosecution. Investigators process and collect evidence, interview witnesses and suspects, and are advocates for victims of crimes. The Martinsville Police Department partners with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, the Department of Social Services (CPS & APS) and Southside Survivor Response Center (SSRC) and other partners around the City of Martinsville and surrounding areas. This division is also responsible for the police department's business watch program.



CRIME ANALYST

Martinsville Police Department uses the skills of a crime analyst. The analyst works under the Criminal Investigations Division and assists patrol with growing crime trends. The analyst compiles information from the police reports submitted by officers and then tracks crime trends. They also provide intel bulletins and updates for officers and surrounding jurisdictions. The analyst also works to ensure all police reports are meeting state validation requirements as well as serving as the Crime Stoppers secretary and assists with the Domestic Violence Initiative/Lethality Assessment Program.

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INVESTIGATIONS

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The special investigations unit consists of a Lieutenant, a sergeant and two Task Force Officers. This unit focuses on narcotics, organized crime activity and quality of life related crimes. All investigators work closely with many other local, state and federal agencies such as:

- Local Sheriff's Office
- Virginia State Police
- Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Drug Enforcement Agency
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
- US Marshall's Task Force



During the fiscal year 2019, Martinsville Police Department Special Investigations Unit participated in numerous Federal, State and Local Investigations with successful resolutions. The MPD SIU investigated approximately 257 cases with numerous cases ongoing and pending. The SIU participated in 4 Grand Jury terms with subsequent arrest operations focusing on Narcotic dealers and users. We also conducted two arrest operations for outstanding warrants mainly focusing on multiple Felony Probation Violations offenders.

BATF, DEA and US MARSHAL TASK FORCE OFFICERS

The Martinsville Police Department has two senior officers assigned to ATF and DEA Task Forces as well as four sergeants who serve as US Marshal Task Force Officers. These positions are sworn federal positions, in which the officers work with other federal agents to investigate violent crimes, violent firearm offense and complex narcotic/diversion in the city and other surrounding areas.

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INVESTIGATIONS

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

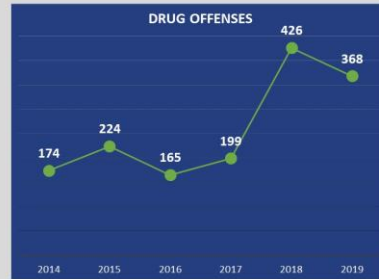
STATISTICS

	2019	2018
Prescription Drugs	53	36
Cocaine	57	50
Marijuana	11	24
Heroin	63	22
Firearm Cases	23	4
Methamphetamine	41	19
TOTAL SIU CASES <small>(including categories not listed)</small>	157	155



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DRUG ENFORCEMENT



All employees of Martinsville Police Department, including officers and civilian, are certified in the administration of NARCAN

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PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



Accreditation - The Martinsville Police Department is an accredited agency through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. We were first accredited in 1998 and were reaccredited in 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019. Accreditation is the ongoing process whereby agencies evaluate policy and procedure against established criteria and have compliance with that criteria verified by an independent and authoritative body.



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PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Training - The Martinsville Police Department is a member of and provides instructors for the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy. For initial certification as a police officer, an officer attends a basic academy for thirty-two weeks including a 10 week Field Training Program (FTO). After completion of basic training and the FTO program, officers must recertify with a minimum forty hours of in-service training every two years, including at least two (2) hours of cultural diversity training. Furthermore, we require all of our officers to complete crisis intervention training (CIT), verbal de-escalation training and bias based policing awareness training. The department also offers specialized training through DCJS certified schools, online courses, and in-house trainings.

RESPECT ETHICS HONESTY INTEGRITY

Internal Affairs - In order to serve our citizens with the highest level of professionalism, the integrity of the Martinsville Police Department depends on personal integrity and discipline of all departmental employees. Investigations are conducted on every citizen complaint. These investigations are conducted thoroughly and impartially by staff, to include first line supervisors to the chief of police. Complaints are reviewed by the chief of police to ensure that our citizens are being treated appropriately. In every instance of police force beyond soft hand control, officers are required to submit a response to resistance report to their immediate supervisor which, along with any photos or video, is reviewed by the chain of command. The department prides itself in being accountable and transparent to our citizens. Patrol officers are required to utilize body-worn cameras when dealing with police situations. Officers are also required to utilize in-car cameras. Our in-car cameras have settings to automatically begin recording if the emergency lights are on, certain speeds are reached, etc.

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GRANTS



DMV GRANTS \$15,225.00

JAG EQUIPMENT \$4,430.00

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STRATEGIC PLANNING

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR A MORE RESPONSIVE MPD IN 2020

The following is a list of strategic initiatives for the police department for the year 2020. Plans certainly change and this should in no way be interpreted as a promise or commitment, but here is our best effort at determining our priorities for the coming year.

- A Continued Concentration on Greater Community Policing
- Intelligence Led Policing
- Continue Major Drug Operation and strict enforcement of Drug Laws
- Personnel Development
- Enhancing Retail Theft Investigations
- Traffic Safety

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PARTNERSHIPS

- Martinsville City Sheriff's Office
- Henry County Sheriff's Office
- Virginia State Police
- US Marshal Service
- ATF
- DEA
- Commonwealth Attorney's Office
- Martinsville Victim/Witness Program
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Southside Survivor Response Center
- Department of Social Services
- 9-1-1 Center
- PRCJTA
- ICAC
- CAC
- Crime Stoppers
- SPCA of Martinsville/Henry County



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SNAPSHOTS



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SNAPSHOTS



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SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We want to give a special thanks to our annual report work group. We recognize how important it is to share what we have accomplished and what we hope to accomplish in the coming year with our citizens. This effort was time consuming and involved a constant checking and double checking of facts and figures to ensure we are delivering a quality report. We could not have made this possible without the tireless effort from the following personnel:

Hannah Boyd



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Consider approval on second reading Ordinance 2020-2 establishing a local tax exemption for real estate owned by Theater Works Community Players, Inc. – City Attorney Monday explained the need for the ordinance. Monday explained that Council Member Woods is on the Theater Works but is not compensated so therefore would not present a conflict of interest. Council Member Bowles made a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading. Council Member Woods seconded the motion with the following roll call vote: Lawson, aye; Martin, aye; Bowles, aye; Turner, aye; and Woods, aye.

**City Council
Agenda Summary**

Ordinance 2020-2

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in regular session held on June 23, 2020 and pursuant to Section 58.1-3651 of the Code of Virginia, that Section 21-12, specifically subsection (k)(2), of the City Code be amended as follows:

(k) Taxation exemption for Theatre Works Community Players. After convening a duly advertised public hearing and considering the factors set forth in Code of Virginia § 58.1-3651(B), the city council of Martinsville, Virginia hereby ordains the following:

1. Theatre Works Community Players, a nonprofit organization, is hereby classified and designated as a cultural organization within the context of Section 6(a)(6) of Article X of the Constitution of Virginia.
2. ~~BPOL Gross revenue, together with real and~~ personal property owned by Theatre Works Community Players, and used exclusively for cultural purposes on a nonprofit basis, as set forth in subsection (1) of this section, is hereby determined to be exempt from local ~~BPOL, real~~ and personal property taxation.
3. Continuance of the exemption shall be contingent on the continued use of the property in accordance with the purpose for which the organization is classified or designated.

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

Consider approval of Budget Ordinance 2020-U-3 on second reading – City Manager

Towarnicki briefly summarized the budget presented and changes made for FY20-21. Turner asked that the electric rate increase not go into effect until August 31 and at that time, anyone delinquent would have a year to get caught up. Turner does not want to see mass shut-offs. Towarnicki confirmed there has been discussion on extending the cut-offs for 2 months until September and payment plans are being offered to customers. He also noted that delaying the rate adjustment would require changes to the electric budget since that would affect revenue coming in. A motion was made by Council member Bowles, seconded by Council member Woods to approve Budget Ordinance 2020-U-3 as presented. Council member Turner offered a substitute motion to delay the electric rate increase until September 1, but that motion died due to lack of a second. Roll call vote: Lawson, aye; Martin, aye; Bowles, aye; Turner, nay; and Woods, aye. The budget ordinance was approved 4-1.



Ordinance 2020-U-3

The Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in regular session assembled June 23, 2020, that the following sums of money be and hereby are appropriated — by specific Fund — for the City's fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the following Fund sources of estimated revenue:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF BUDGET ESTIMATES

2020-2021

FUND	PROJECTED	BUDGETED	CHANGES
	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES	FUND BALANCE
General	\$31,051,819	\$32,658,074	(\$1,606,255)
Meals Tax	\$2,081,930	\$2,081,930	\$0
Capital Reserve	\$500,488	\$501,095	(\$607)
Refuse	\$2,266,600	\$4,328,401	(\$2,061,801)
Telecommunications	\$2,295,365	\$2,255,311	\$40,054
Water	\$4,091,165	\$3,420,389	\$670,776
Sewer	\$4,604,012	\$5,241,248	(\$637,236)
Electric	\$20,132,524	\$21,150,059	(\$1,017,535)
Cafeteria*	\$1,627,447	\$1,714,660	(\$87,213)
School Operating*	\$21,866,116	\$21,866,116	\$0
CDBG	\$22,666	\$1,436	\$21,230

TOTALS: \$90,540,132 \$95,218,719 (\$4,678,587)

*Provided by School Personnel

Tax Rates (unchanged):

Real Estate:	\$1.0621 per \$100 assessed value
Personal Property:	\$2.30 per \$100 assessed value
Machinery & Tools:	\$1.85 per \$100 assessed value

Proposed for Water:

Increase in monthly bill of \$1.50

Proposed for Electric:

Increase in PCA of 2.5%

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by said Council that this Ordinance shall be effective on and after July 1, 2020.

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

Consider approval of ordinance concerning Uptown refuse collection – City Attorney

Monday corrected the ordinance number, which should be Ordinance 2020-3. The issue of uptown trash collection has been an issue for a number of years with businesses setting out their trash the night before or the Friday for Monday pickup. Sometimes trash is not properly bagged or scattered due to animals or weather. This ordinance will be enforced if Council passes it as a Class 1 misdemeanor but could significantly improve the appearance in uptown Martinsville. There would be a first offense warning. Council Member Woods made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with the following roll call vote: Lawson, aye; Martin, aye; Bowles, aye; Turner, aye; and Woods, aye.

CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

ORDINANCE No. 2020-1

COLLECTION OF REFUSE IN UPTOWN

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in Regular Session held on June 23, 2020 that Section 18-18.1 of the City Code is hereby enacted, to read as follows:

Sec. 18-18.1. – Collection of refuse in Uptown.

In the Uptown Martinsville Historic District, refuse shall be placed on the curb for collection no earlier than 5:00 a.m., and no later than 9:30 a.m., on any designated day of collection. No refuse shall be placed on the curb between the hours of 9:30 a.m. of any Friday and 5:00 a.m. of any Monday, nor shall it placed on the curb during any holiday designated by the City on which refuse collection has been suspended.

Charter reference— Authority of city to collect and dispose of garbage and other waste, Ch. 1, § 2(19).

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

Consider approval of consent agenda – Council Member Bowles made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Woods seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor. Council Members asked questions about the COVID Care funding.

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 6/23/20				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
BUDGET ADDITIONS				
FY2020				
General Fund:				
01101918	443407	State Grants - DHCD Daycare Assessment		31,500
01913250	503140	General Expense - Eng & Arch	31,500	
		DHCD grant - Daycare needs/site evaluation		
01101917	442401	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - PD		749
01101917	442402	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - CA		173
01311085	506078	Police Dept - State Asset Forfeitures	749	
01221082	506105	Commonwealth's Atty - State Asset Forfeitures	173	
		Forfeited assets from Commonwealth		
01102926	405555	Brownfields Grant - EPA		9,410
01812247	503136	Brownfields - Hazardous - Consultant	7,384	
01812249	503136	Brownfields - Petroleum - Consultant	2,026	
		Requisition #5		
Total General Fund:			41,832	41,832

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 6/23/20				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
BUDGET ADDITIONS				
FY2020				
General Fund:				
01102926	442305	Categorical/Federal - CARES Act fund (EMS)		27,342
01322105	506146	Emergency Med Services - CARES Act supplement	27,342	
		Replacement of lost revenue - ambulance services		
Total General Fund:			27,342	27,342
CARES ACT Fund:				
17102926	442305	Categorical/Federal - CARES Act Funds		1,095,288
17913250	506146	General Expense - CARES Act Funds	845,288	
17812242	503600	Community Dev - Small Business Grants	250,000	
		CARES Act funds received from Federal Government		
Total CARES Act Fund			1,095,288	1,095,288

Business from the Floor – No comments from the public received

Comments by City Council – Council Member Turner asked if some of the COVID Care funds could be used to benefit the Martinsville Mustangs. Vice Mayor Martin encouraged residents to complete the census. Council Member Woods is looking forward to the opening of Hooker Field and the Mustangs season. Theater Works will offer another live stream on July 2 with an online piano bar presentation. Council Member Bowles that the Healthy Food Hub feasibility study will be held June 25 from 5:30-6:30 to collect resident opinions and share options on a healthy food center on the west end. Mayor Lawson expressed congratulations to Hannah Boyd in the Police Department for her certification. Saturday is Hazardous Waste Day from 7am-10am.

Comments by the City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki discussed the Cares funding, sharing information on the committee that was organized to review the applications every Tuesday. Of the 36 applications so far, financial assistance awards have been given to 21 small businesses totaling \$69,494. The application can be accessed through the City website. The City is in the process of applying for a new grant for a sewer project. It has been discovered that there is another interceptor line at Jones Creek area that will need approximately \$3.75million in repairs, the grant could cover up to 80% of those repairs. The City has received two proposals for the BB&T building.

There being no further business, Council Member Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Bowles with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Karen Roberts
Clerk of Council

Kathy Lawson
Mayor